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THE

MEGALITHIC MONUMENTS

of

Carnac and Locmariaquer :

THEIR PURPOSE AND AGE.

With

FIVE VIEWS AND ONE MAP.

By

Z. LE ROUZIC,

Officier de l'Instruction publique, Member of the Société Polymathique du Morbihan.

Translated by

W. M. TAPP. LL. D., F.S.A.

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Visitors can purchase at the Musee J. Milne or at the house of Monsieur Z. Le Rouzic at Kerdolmen, close to the tumulus of St. Michel at Carnac, a large selection of photographs and picture post cards of the monuments of St. Anne-Auray, Locmariaquer, La Trinite, Carnac, Plouharnel, Erdeven, Etel, Quiberon and Belle-Ile-en-Mer.

The photographs are of various sizes, are either mounted singly or in albums, and are for sale at very reasonable prices.

There are similarly, on sale, reproductions in plaster of the various megalithic monuments of the district. These imitate the granite, and are of a convenient size.

PREFACE.

The accompanying translation of M. Z. Le Rouzic's fascinating guide to the Megalithic Monuments of Carnac and Locmariaquer has been undertaken in the interests of English-speaking visitors, who may not be able, or may not care, to read the original in French.

The translation closely follows Monsieur Le Rouzic's work, no attempt being made to amplify or comment on the views therein expressed, and it is hoped it may prove of interest and supply a want.

W. M. TAPP, LL.D., F.S.A.

July, 1908.

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The

MEGALITHIC MONUMENTS

OF

CARNAC & LOCMARIAQUER

THEIR PURPOSE.

THEIR AGE.

FIRST PART.

The reception given to my small Guide Book (« Carnac and its Monuments ») published in 1897, and the importance which has during the past few years been attached to prehistoric research, encourage me to expand and develop the ideas expressed therein, and to publish others that are new on the megalithic monuments of this district.

In this work, which is not intended for scientists, I propose to set forth briefly the facts taught by archaeological science as to the antiquity of man.

This much is certain, his earliest existence is evidenced by the implements which he employed, and his first weapons and tools were of stone.

In 1847 M. Boucher de Perthes made known to the scientific world that the alluvium of the Somme contained flints which had certainly been worked by

man. This alluvium dated back to an epoch very remote, and these worked flints showed undeniably man's existence at that epoch ; the conclusions, however, of M. Boucher de Perthes were long disputed, but after an impartial examination all doubt has been removed, and to-day they are universally admitted.

In 1867 M. l'Abbé Bourgeois showed at the Paris International Congress of Prehistoric Archæology, some split flints discovered at Thenay (Loir-et-Cher), in tertiary strata (middle, lower).

In 1877 M. Rames showed other flints found in tertiary strata at Puy-Courny (Cantal).

The split flints found in the tertiary strata, not being certainly the work of man, have always caused discussion, and will continue to do so. Personally, I am convinced that the Chellean implements (see page 7) are not the first used by the so-called primitive man, and that he must have had a precursor who lived at the time of the formation of the tertiary strata. The intentional cutting of the flint specimens of that period which I have been able to examine, however, appears to me doubtful.

After the publication of the astonishing conclusions of M. Boucher de Perthes, researches were made in every direction, and were quickly followed by fresh discoveries ; with this accumulation of material a satisfactory chronological classification became necessary.

In 1836 M. Thomsen established in Denmark the succession of three ages, viz, those of stone, of bronze, and of iron. But this classification, which is true for some districts, cannot be accepted as chronologically infallible, because it is difficult to admit that the same rate of progress was made in different countries at the same time, especially in the early ages.

In 1869 the late M. G. de Mortillet laid down a classification of prehistoric times based on their industrial products. This classification, since completed and improved, has been generally accepted.

TEMPS		AGES	PÉRIODES	ÉPOQUES
Quaternaires actuels	Historique	du Fer	Mérovingienne	Wabenienne Waben (Pas-de-Calais)
			Romaine	Champdolienne Champdolen (Seine-et-Marne)
				Lugdunienne Lyon (Rhône)
	Préhistorique		Galatienne	Benvraysienne Mont-Beuvray (Nièvre)
				Marnienne Département de la Marne
				Hallstatienne Hallstatt (Haute-Autriche)
		du Bronze	Tziganienne	Larnaudienne Larnaud (Jura)
				Morgienne Morges, canton de Vaud (Suisse)
		de la Pierre	Néolithique	Robenhausienne Robenhausen (Zurik)
				Tardenvisienne Fère-en-Tardenois (Aisne)
Quaternaires anciens	Préhistorique		Paléolithique	Tourassienne La Tourasse (Hte-Gne) anc. ihatus
				Magdalénienne La Madeleine (Dordogne)
				Solutréenne Solutré (Saône-et-Loire)
				Moustérienne Le Moustier (Dordogne)
				Acheuléenne Saint-Acheul (Somme)
				Chelléenne Chelles (Seine-et Marne)
Tertiaires			Eolithique	Puy-Cournienne Puy Courny (Cantal)
				Thenaysienne Thenay (Loir-et-Cher)

Le Géant de Kerderf à Carnac.

We give the most recent from « Le Préhistorique » by G. and A. de Mortillet, 3rd edition, Paris, 1900. (See page 7).

This theoretical classification has rendered an immense service to prehistoric archaeology, but it is certain that the earliest type of implement which man used was used also through subsequent epochs ; for instance, the Chellean hatchet was still used with the Mousterian type, and the Mousterian with the Solutrean type. Thus by adopting a purely morphological classification we arrive at an interesting, but scarcely an accurate, conclusion. To remedy this defect two learned palaeontologists, MM. d'Ault du Mesnil and Dr. Capitan, have adopted at the School of Anthropology of Paris a stratigraphic classification of the greatest exactitude.

From this short introduction we gather that for a vast period of time man evidenced his existence by work done exclusively with implements of stone. This is called the Stone Age, and is divided into three periods :—

1. Eolithic, *i.e.*, the Earliest Stone Age—stone simply split.
2. Palæolithic, or Old Stone Age—stone flaked or worked.
3. Neolithic, or New Stone Age—stone polished.

The Eolithic or split stones of the earliest period, discovered in the tertiary strata, are of very doubtful authenticity, and are the subject of much discussion. Not so the Palæolithic, or flaked, or worked stones, of the second period, discovered at the bottom of the quaternary strata with the remains of extinct or migrated animals. These flaked stones are divided into different types, of which the most ancient is the Chellean type, of Chelles (Seine-et-Marne), having more or less the shape of an almond, dressed on its two faces, but differing very much in form, shape, and finish. This type was developed during the earlier quaternary period in a climate mild and

damp, during which the Elephas antiquus and the Rhinocéros Merkii existed in this district. Man himself lived on the plateaux and in the valleys.

The Magdalenian type, from the Madeleine (Dordogne), is especially characterised by engravings and carvings on bone, ivory and horn, showing an advanced stage of art.

Coincident with the deterioration of the Stone Age was the appearance of several new implements; these latter were developed during the later quaternary period with a climate cold and dry, during which the Elephas primigenius and the Rhinoceros Tichorhinus existed. Man himself lived in caves and wore clothes made of skins, and had ornaments made especially of shells.

Besides the implements which we have mentioned man had a good many others during the Chellean epoch, such as blades and scrapers, and, later on, saws, rakes, scrapers, doubled-edged and notched burins or graving tools, awls, etc. This Palæolithic industry has been very little studied in Brittany, and has not yet been thought of in Morbihan.

Fossilized bones of the races of the quaternary period have been found, of which the best known are the skulls of Canstadt, Néanderthal, Tilbury, Brux Spy Podbaba, Eguisheim and Laugerie Basse.

From a study of these the race appears to have been rather under the average height, of remarkable strength, with very strongly developed muscles, a fairly broad head, long and flat, with protruding occiputs and a very receding forehead. Statuettes of women discovered in the Grotto of Prassempouy (Landes) included what is known as the « Hottentot Venus, » satirically so-called owing to its ugliness, and have enabled us to compare the Magdalenian race with that of the present day Hottentots.

From the cold, dry climate of the reindeer period we arrive by transition at our present climate. Certain of the animals which existed in our district

have migrated, others have developed ; some have been domesticated by man, such as the dog, the ox, the horse, the sheep, the goat ; at this epoch a new implement made its appearance—the polished axe. Thus appears the Neolithic or New Stone Age. Earthenware also appeared, but already so perfect that the art had evidently been practised earlier. Man makes himself huts, and on the lakes pile-dwellings ; he cultivates corn and flax and weaves cloth. From a hunter he becomes a shepherd and a husbandman. His implements, weapons and tools change and increase in number ; the dressed flint continues, the axe, the gouge and the hammer are polished and are provided with handles. Manufactories for the working of different hard and soft rocks appear and their produce is sent into all parts. With this new industry we find certain indications of a religion in the care which is taken of the dead. Special chambers are prepared for their bodies, and with the corpses are laid their weapons, jewels, and amulets ; alongside, but in less important sepulchres, the slaves and servants are placed. In certain districts these sepulchral chambers are dug in the earth, in others they are built above ground with detached blocks of stone and then covered with earth and stone, thus forming a tumulus. The monuments being burial-places, the human bones of this period are very numerous. The races are already very much mixed ; they practised trepanning, and certain indications lead us to believe that they were cannibals. There were undoubtedly migrations but the stone industry was developed on the spot and was continued in Gaul until at least 1500 B.C. It was replaced first by the use of copper, then by the use of bronze in making axes. Bronze makes its appearance about this time in the shape of axes which were at first flat. These gradually came to be varied by means of raised edges, heels, wings and sockets. Other forms of worked bronze were swords, brooches, arrowheads, bracelets, necklaces, helmets and shields.

Stone instruments are still made and become wonderfully finished and elegant in shape. The worship of the dead now becomes general ; the greater part of the interments are cinerary ; the sepulchral chambers attain great proportions, some of them having their walls ornemented with mystical signs, and in certain districts human representations appear. The weapons and implements of stone of the dead are no longer utilitarian but votive objects ; pottery even attains a sacred character.

Iron was used in Gaul towards the fifth century B.C. for manufacturing swords copied at first from those of bronze. The latter metal remained in use for defensive weapons and objects of luxury and ornament. It was at this time that Marseilles was founded by the Phoenicians and the Gauls settled in the north of Italy. It was also the time of the chariot-sepulture in Champagne called Marnienne (fourth century, B.C.). It was, to sum up, the dawn of our history.

SECOND PART.

The

MEGALITHIC MONUMENTS

DEFINITIONS.

The Megalithic or enormous stone monuments of Carnac and Locmariaquer are composed of nine characteristic types or kinds :—

1. Menhir :—In Breton « men » = stone, « hir » = long. The menhir is an unfashioned stone placed vertically, and is found isolated or in groups ; it is also sometimes called « Peulven. » Example : The Giant of Kerderf at Carnac.

2. Alignments :—An alignment is a group of menhirs placed in one or several lines. Example : Alignments of Carnac and of Ménec.

3. Lech :—The lech is a cut or dressed menhir, usually with crosses engraved on its sides. Example : The Lechs of the Village of Plouharnel.

4. Cromlech :—In Breton « crom » = circle « lech » = place. The cromlech is a group of menhirs placed in a circle. If they are placed in a square it is then called a quadrilateral. Example : Cromlech of Ménec and the Quadrilateral of Crucuno.

5. Dolmen :—In Breton « dol » = table, « men » = stone. The dolmen is a monument in the form of a

habitation composed of several vertical menhirs called supports, and forming one or several chambers, usually approached by a gallery ; the whole is covered by one or several stones of very large size called tables. Example : Dolmen of the Merchants Locmariaquer.

There are several kinds of dolmens :—

1. The simple dolmen. Example : The Dolmen of Moustoir.
2. The dolmen with gallery. Example : The Dolmen of Mané Kerioned.
3. The dolmen with a chamber alongside. Example : The Dolmen of Keriaval.
4. The dolmen paved with big flagstones. Example : The Dolmen of the Madeleine.
5. The simple dolmen whose supports are made of stones without the use of mortar or of menhirs lying on the ground.—Example : The Dolmens of St. Michel. Some dolmens do not appear to have ever had a table of stone, and were probably covered with wood, such as Mané-Brésil at Carnac, Moulin des Oies (Mill of the Geese), Coët-Kersut at Crach, etc.

6. Allée Couverte :—(the covered way). The covered way is composed of two parallel lines of menhirs, covered with tables of stone. Example : The Covered Way of the Pierres-Plates (flat stones).

7. Cist-Ven :—The cist-ven (in Breton « cist » = tomb, « ven » = stone, in English « stone-cist ») is composed of flat stones forming a chamber which is closed and smaller than the dolmens. Example : The Stone-Cists at the Musée J. Milne.

8. Galgal :—The galgal is an agglomeration of little stones forming an artificial mound.—Example : The Galgal of Gavrinis.

9. Tumulus :—The tumulus is a mass of earth forming an artificial mound. There are two kinds of

tumuli : the oblong, also called « barrow » ; example : The Tumulus of St. Michel ; and the circular tumulus ; example : The Tumulus of Kercado.

Several tumuli are, or have been, surrounded by a cromlech or by a quadrilateral. Example : The Tumulus of Kerlescan. The tumuli or galgals of this district cover dolmens, covered ways, stone-cists and sometimes several of these monuments together. Example : Mané Kerioned and the Tumulus of Moustoir.

The bare dolmens and covered ways of this district have all been covered originally by tumuli or by galgals. The weather and the need of the husbandman who required earth to spread on his field are the causes of their now being uncovered.

The menhirs, alignments, and cromlechs have always been visible. The lechs and certain of the stone-cists are relatively recent.

DESCRIPTION.

The isolated menhir is without doubt the most ancient of the Megalithic Monuments, since it is the most simple. The most important is Men-er-Groach, near the town of Locmariaquer, at the present time unhappily fallen and broken into five pieces, of which four are still *in situ*, and measure exactly 20m 40. Its weight, calculated according to its volume and density, equals some 360 tons.

The date and the causes of its fall are unknown. M. de Robien, President of the Parlement de Bretagne, made a drawing of it in 1727 in the position which it still maintains.

Next in importance is the Menhir of Manio in the Commune of Carnac, measuring 5m 80 in height.

Others are the Menhir of Kerlagat, 2m 90 in height ; the Menhir of Kerlhuir, 4m 25 in height ; the Menhir of the town, 2m 70 in height ; the Menhir of Men-

Melen in the Commune of Saint Philibert, 2m 60 in height ; the Menhir Lann-er-Menhir d'Erdeven, 3m 40 in height ; the Menhir of Conguel in the Commune of Quiberon, 5m 20 in height ; the Menhir of Saint-Cado, measuring 5m 40 in height.

The most important alignments are those of Carnac. They take an easterly direction for 3,900 metres and comprise 2,813 menhirs from the village of Ménec to the end of Kerlescan or Ménec-Vihan (Petit-Ménec). At the end of this group the alignments take a north-easterly direction of 41 degrees. Very clear traces of alignments are to be found behind the Estate du Lac, at the places called Er-Mareu, Mané-er-Lac, and at the bottom of the field. These menhirs, the greater part of which are lying on the ground, indicate that the alignments stretched to the River Crache. There is no trace of any alignment on the other side of the river.

These alignments are divided into three distinct groups :—

1. The Field of Ménec, 960 metres to the north of the village of Carnac, has a cromlech, half of which is on one side of the general line of the alignments. Its length is 1,167 metres and its average width 100 metres. It contains 1,169 menhirs, of which 70 are in the cromlech, and 1,099 are placed in eleven lines, taking an east by north-east direction of 70 degrees. The highest of these menhirs measures 4 metres, the smallest about 60cm. To the south and north of these alignments may be found a few fallen menhirs which originally formed part no doubt of lines taking these directions. At the north-west may be found two other fallen menhirs. At the end of this group a few menhirs, formerly fenced in, seem to indicate that this was the site of a second cromlech.

   The alignments are broken for a length of 340 metres from the end of Ménec to Kermario.

Alignements de Carnac — Champ du Menec.

2. The Field of Kermario is 1,120 metres long and has an average width of 101 metres, contains 982 menhirs, placed in ten lines taking a north-easterly direction of 57 degrees.

The largest menhir of this group has fallen and is 6m 42 in length. the smallest is about 50cm. Kermario without doubt formerly possessed a cromlech to the west of the alignments, but there remains no trace of it to-day. South of these menhirs, facing the farm of la Petite-Métairie, are found three standing menhirs indicating a line which has taken a southerly direction ; one dolmen with a gallery is found close to and south of these lines. To the north there is a group of fallen menhirs, and to the north-west a few large menhirs also fallen ; close to the group of small menhirs which form the end of the field of Kermario, on the site called the Manio, is found another much loftier menhir which has not the same orientation as those of the alignments. The eminence on which this stands undoubtedly encloses several tombs and is anterior in date to the alignments.

The alignments are again broken between the end of Kermario and the beginning of Kerlescan for a length of 393 metres.

3. The Field of Kerlescan possesses at the west a square cromlech with rounded corners, the north portion of which is formed by a long tumulus, at the western end of which is a menhir four metres high. This field is 880 metres long and 139 wide, the alignments behind the village being broken for 200 metres. In the village a great number of menhirs may be seen in enclosures. This field contains 579 menhirs, of which 39 are in the cromlech and 540 in 13 lines taking an easterly direction of 95 degrees. The highest menhir in this field is four metres in height, the smallest about 0m 80. At the

north end of this field are 43 menhirs of which 7 are still standing, forming an enormous cromlech.

There is also north of these alignments a tumulus having a cromlech and containing a closed gallery of which the entrance was formed by a circular hole made in one of the stones supporting the roof, and the gallery itself is separated from the cromlech by two stone supports having their sides hewn to form a circular passage. Unfortunately there only remain of this curious monument a few stone supports and a top slab.

These three fields of menhirs are absolutely distinct from each other, having each a separate orientation.

It would not be surprising if the field of alignments of St. Barbe, Commune de Plouharnel (whose end is closed by a cromlech, situated on a hill at the base of which ran formerly a stream now filled up by sand) were continued in another field, the remains of which may be seen behind the villages of Kerbachiche and Kerderf ; this latter field probably stretched to Ménec, thus forming a long line of menhirs from the River St. Barbe to the River Crache, a distance of more than 8 kilometres.

These alignments are far from complete and are evidently the remains of one or several fields of menhirs of much greater extent.

There are still several traces of small alignments in the Commune of Carnac, namely :—

1. In the waste lands of Kerlann, to the north of Ménec, Section N of Carnac, Nos 731 and 801 of the Survey Register, several small fallen menhirs, placed in lines.
2. In the waste lands of Nignol where the roads branch off to Coët-à-Tous and to Monstoir, Section N of Carnac, Nos. 403 and 404 of the Survey Register, several small fallen menhirs, placed in lines.

3. In the waste lands of Keriaval, between the dolmen and the village of that name, Section E of Carnac, Nos. 330 and 331 of the Survey Register, several menhirs both fallen and standing, placed in lines.
4. In the waste lands to the north of Hanhon, Section A of Carnac, Nos. 276 and 278 of the Survey Register, several small fallen menhirs, placed in lines.
5. In the waste lands to the north of Coët-à-Tous, Section D of Carnac, Nos. 250 and 251 of the Survey Register, several small menhirs both fallen and standing, placed in lines.
6. In the waste lands to the north-east of Clud-er-Yer, Section E of Carnac, Nos. 451 and 457 of the Survey Register, eight fallen menhirs, placed in a line to the west of which is found a series of little sepulchres.

The alignments of Kerzehro, Commune d'Erdeven, are composed of 1,129 menhirs, placed for the greater part in ten lines, on the west crossed by La Route de Grande Communication N°. 20. They extend to a length of 2,105 metres and a width of 64 metres. One line composed of 23 menhirs, two of which exceed 6 metres in height, and six fragmentary menhirs stretch towards the north at right angles to the alignments themselves and are probably the remains of an enormous cromlech. A menhir among a small group, and lying to the west of the road, is capped. These alignments stretched originally east-north-east to Mané-Bras where the most splendid dolmens are to be found. They turn off there to the east-south-east. Finally, several menhirs (some of them standing upright) are found forming two lines, the one running from north to south, the other from west to east, and showing the remains of a square enclosure or cromlech ; towards the end the traces of these alignments, though visible, become confused.

The alignments of St. Barbe, Commune of Plou-

harnel, are composed of about 50 menhirs, nearly all fallen, but many more are to be found buried in the sand ; these alignments are bounded on the west by a cromlech facing an east-south-easterly direction.

The alignments of St. Pierre Quiberon, or du Moulin, are composed of 24 menhirs placed in five lines in an east-south-easterly direction, stretching away to the swamps close to the sea. At 100 metres south-east of the starting point of these alignments are found the remains of a cromlech of 25 menhirs and this undoubtedly formed part of the whole monument.

Other alignments of menhirs are to be found in the same district, but they are usually in a single line, notably at Vieux-Moulin, near the station of Plouharnel ; at Kerascouët, Commune d'Erdeven ; at the Lac, at Hanhon, at Men-Pleurit, at Crifol, Commune of Carnac ; at Saint Cado, Commune of Ploemel. Also at Kerderf, Commune of Carnac, there are two menhirs, one of which is a very fine example, and measures 5 metres in height, which seem to have been part of a series of alignments, traces of which are found again north of the village of Kerbachiche, Commune of Plouharnel.

The lechs are of a much more recent origin than the other megalithic monuments ; some of them are mistaken for Roman milestones ; many of them have on their summit a square hole meant to receive the base of a cross ; others carry on their faces graven crosses. The village of Plouharnel possesses two lechs, one near and to the south of the church, the other to the north of the road from Plouharnel to Carnac and east of the smithy. At Carnac a splendid lech lies at the cross roads in the village of Coët-Cougam. At Erdeven there are two near the cemetery. In fact, lechs are to be found in every commune of the district, more especially near old churches.

The principal cromlechs are those of the alignments of Ménec, Kerlescan, St. Barbe and St. Pierre-

Quiberon ; these from part of the alignments. But there are others at Crucuny and Kerlescan, Commune of Carnac, Crucuno and at Cohquer, Commune of Plouharnel (these two last are square), at Er-lannic and l'Ile aux Moines in the gulf of Morbihan, which are isolated.

Dolmens with menhirs are the monuments most usually found at Morbihan ; they are very much though never quite alike ; they are composed of blocks of stone called supports, placed upright, and flat slabs placed horizontally on these supports, thus forming one or several chambers with an entrance which is usually approached by a gallery. The door is placed to face an imaginary line drawn between the rising and setting of the sun at Midsummer. These dolmens are provided with floors made with flat stones frequently covered with shingle. Many of these floors are embellished with signs, the meanings of which have not yet been discovered. Dr. Letourneau has compared some of these signs with certain letters of the most ancient alphabets. M. A. de Mortillet has compared others, again, with certain signs engraven on rocks in Norway, to which they have a certain resemblance.

It is evident that these signs have a mystical character, of which the meaning has been lost, and when we compare (as has been so ably done by M. Ch. Keller) certain signs of these covered ways with certain designs on the vases of Mycenae, we are struck by their resemblance. Remembering the successive transformations to be found on the Dolmen of Collogues, Department of Gard, and in the sculptures of the grottoes of the valley of Petit Morin, Department of Marne, we may compare them also to the menhir statues discovered in Aveyron, and also to the Gallic Mercury of Lezoux as well as to the Christian Saints.

The principal dolmens of the district are :—

La table des Marchands ; Mané Rutual ; Mané

Lud ; Kerveresse with signs ; Kerlud and St. Pierre in the Commune of Locmariaquer ; de Kerhan with cupules ; Kermané ; Mané Kernaplaye and Mané-Han ; Commune of St. Philibert. De Kerdro-Vihan ; Kermarquer with a chamber and Kervilor, Commune de la Trinité ; de la Madeleine ; Roch-Feutet with cupules ; Mané-Brisil ; Kermario ; Kergo ; Clud-er-Yer and Keriaval with lateral chambers ; Mané-Kerioned with three monuments, of which one has engraved signs, in the Commune of Carnac. De Kergavat Rondossec with three monuments of which one has a chamber ; Runesto ; Mané-Remor ; Cohquer and Cruenno, Commune of Plouharnel ; de Roche-er-Aude, Commune of St. Pierre Quiberon ; de Mané-Groh with four lateral chambers ; Mané-Bras with four dolmens and Ty-er-Mané, Commune of Erdeven ; de Kerhuen ; Moulin des Oies ; Kerlutu, Commune de Belz ; de Mené-er-Loch with signs and Locqueltas with lateral chambers, Commune of Mendon ; de Mané Bogat, Commune of Ploemel ; de Kervin Brigitte ; Mané Kerhuerin ; Kerzut ; Parc-Guren with signs, Commune of Crach.

The covered ways are rare ; some of them are winding. The most important are those called Pierres-Plates with sculptured signs and lateral chambers, Commune of Locmariaquer ; Du Rocher with its tumulus, Commune of Plougoumelen ; Luffang with signs ; Kerentrech, Commune of Crach ; Mané-Roullarde, Commune of La Trinité ; Mané-er-Loh Commune of Mendon.

All these monuments, dolmens and covered ways were most certainly hidden by tumuli in ancient times and to-day are really only the framework of now ruined monuments.

The stone-cists are quite common in our soil, especially near dolmens and covered ways, but their small size and their scanty contents have caused them to be neglected. Some may be found intact in the North, also close to Clud-er-Yer, Commune of Carnac ; at Mané-er-Penher and at Mané-Roullarde,

Commune of La Trinité. Certain of the larger ones have been mistaken for dolmens, but these last have always an entrance, while the stone-cists are always closed. Most of them, if not all, were covered with stone slabs like dolmens and are buried beneath tumuli.

Tumuli and galgals are the outward coverings of dolmens and covered ways ; the former are composed of earth, mud and stones, but the latter are exclusively composed of stones on the exterior. The principal galgals are those of Gavrinis, Commune of Baden ; of Petit-Mont, Commune d'Arzon ; Mané-er-Hroeck, Commune of Locmariaquer ; the eastern part of St. Michel, Commune of Carnac. The most characteristic tumuli are those of Tumiac, Commune d'Arzon ; Mané-Lud, Commune of Locmariaquer ; Kerlescan ; Kercado ; Moustoir ; Crucuny and St. Michel, Commune of Carnac ; Beg-er Aud, Commune of St. Pierre Quiberon ; St. Germain, Commune d'Erdeven.

The large stone blocks forming the monuments called megalithic are of the granite of the district and are doubtless erratics, *i.e.*, blocks of stone remaining on the surface of the earth after the receding of the ice of the glacial age.

As to their erection, it is possible that inclined planes and levers were sufficient for their builders.

THEIR PURPOSE.

Excavations have been carried out in the case of several dolmens, at first by M. de Robien (1727 to 1737) ; later by MM. de Penhoët and Renaud d'Auray, in the Table des Marchands and the Pierres-Plates of Locmariaquer in 1811 and 1813 ; by M. Causique in the Galgal of Gavrinis in 1832 ; by M. le Bail in the Dolmens of Rondossec in Plouharnel in 1850 ; by the Société Polymathique du Morbihan in the Tumulus d'Arzon in 1853.

This last excavation having led to the discovery of

a crypt containing 32 axes or stone celts, three turquoise necklaces and remains of human bones not cremated aroused considerable interest.

The Society, encouraged by this first success, decided to undertake the exploration of other tumuli in the district.

Under its auspices were excavated successively :—

1. The Tumulus of St. Michel at Carnac, in 1862, by M. R. Galles and Dr. Closmadeuc. The centre of the mound formed a crypt containing 39 celts, 2 necklaces and some cremated human bones. (*Bulletin de La Société Polymathique du Morbihan*, 1862.)
2. The Gargal of Mané-er-Hroeck at Locmariaquer in 1863, by MM. R. Galles and Lefèvre. This mound contained a crypt in which were found 101 celts, 1 necklace, 1 disc and 1 engraved stone. (*Bulletin de La Société Polymathique*, 1863).
3. The Tumulus of Kercado at Carnac in 1863, by MM. R. Galles and Lefèvre. This tumulus contained a large dolmen with a gallery, the roof stone and several supports of which are engraved. It contained 2 celts, 1 necklace, some flints and human bones. (*Bulletin de La Société Polymathique*, 1863.)
4. The Tumulus of Mané-Lud at Locmariaquer, in 1863-1864 by M. Galles. This tumulus contained on the east a circle of menhirs on the top of which were fragments of horses' heads ; in the centre, a cist containing human bones ; and on the west one large dolmen with a gallery which had been discovered some time before. Several of its supports are engraved. (*Bulletin de La Société Polymathique*, 1864.)
5. The Tumulus of Moustoir at Carnac in 1864 by M. R. Galles. This tumulus which is surmounted by a menhir contained on the east two crypts or cells in which were found human

bones ; in the centre a heap of charcoal and of animals' bones ; on the west a dolmen minus a gallery containing bones and pottery. (*Bulletin de la Société Polymathique*, 1864.)

It has been proved that tumuli were used as tombs. Excavations made, both by the Société Polymathique and by independent individuals, and in latter years by M. Ch. Keller, engineer at Nancy, in conjunction with myself, have amply confirmed this fact, and have also proved that the dolmens and covered ways are only the remains of now ruined tumuli. The excavations we are making with M. Keller at the Tumulus of St. Michel at Carnac (which have already led to the discovery of a second dolmen on the east) are being carried on to establish these facts beyond a doubt

The objects found in these tombs are principally :—

1. Human bones, cremated and natural, sometimes in great quantities indicating collective sepulchres or ossuaries ; sometimes in very small quantities indicating individual sepulchres. Animal bones, chiefly of horses and cattle, are also found.
2. Various urns generally broken; some in common pottery, others in extremely fine pottery. Many appear to have been used but others have no trace of usage and are most certainly ritual urns; many are ornamented with apparently symbolical drawings, and in November 1900, I discovered two small urns having at the bottom a small depression made with the finger and somewhat similar in shape to the depression found in the base of one of the stone supports of the Galgal of Gavrinis. Certain of these urns show in their interior undeniable traces of burning and have undoubtedly been used for cooking purposes.
3. Axes or celts generally in hard stone, occasionally in rare stone. Some of them are pierced at the heel to allow of their being suspended. Several, from 10—42 centimetres long, are

wonderfully perfect. They do not appear to have been used and can only have been votive axes ; even at the present day our peasants consider them valuable talismans and call them Men-Gurun, or thunderbolts.

The expert Dr. G. Closmadeuc, who undoubtebly knows our monuments better than anyone else and has studied them for half a century, says in an article on the celts or stone axes of the Armorican dolmens (*Bulletin de La Société Polymathique*, 1873) :—

> « In the religion of the primitive Armorican who built the dolmens of Morbihan, the stone celt, or Men-Gurun, was purely and simply a sacred object to be placed in the tomb beside the dead, a sort of image or idol to be adored as a tutelary god. We are, moreover, led to imagine that this superstition concerning the dead became a dogma, and was handed down by uninterrupted tradition to the Romanised Gauls. They adopted the custom of consecrating their tombs to the deified spirits of the dead, whom they represented by figures in the shape of an axe under which was written the dedication :— « Sub ascia. »

4. Necklace beads, of which some are of common, while others are of precious material—notably those made of a species of turquoise. These necklace beads of various shapes had pendants attached and one of these pendants, discovered at the Tumulus of Mont St. Michel, was pierced with two holes, showing that the necklace was made up originally of two rows.
5. Instruments and dressed flints, knives, daggers, arrow-heads, scrapers, nuclei, hammers, grinding-stones, discs or circular shields ; lastly, a species of large bead made of stone which is said to have been used with a distaff for spinning

flax, but which really shows no trace of having served for this purpose, and was probably only an amulet.

Certain gold trinkets have also been found in these tombs : necklaces, bracelets and clasps.

The greater part of these are certainly votive objects made specially and in order to be placed in the tombs with the dead, so that they might use them in another life. From this belief in immortality sprang the respect for the dead and the care given to their remains.

The excavations made at the foot of either isolated or grouped menhirs (such as alignments and cromlechs) did not give the same results ; certain urns, however, were discovered at the foot of isolated menhirs, and I myself have discovered what appeared to be two votive urns, one beside a small menhir in the waste land of Hanhon, the other close to a menhir in the waste land of Moustoir ; further discoveries of fragments of pottery, a few stone implements, pebbles and charcoal seem to show that those menhirs at least served to indicate tombs. Menhirs placed on the tumuli themselves or in their immediate neighbourhood served the same object.

During the excavations which I made with my regretted chief, M. J. Milne, in the alignments of Kermario we found at the foot of a menhir an urn containing ashes, two brooches in bronze, and an iron pick-axe, but these objects seem to be Gallo-Roman, and therefore of a later date than the monuments themselves.

I discovered in 1889 in the Manio group under a small hillock, which appeared to me to be the site of a single menhir from an alignment, an urn containing a flint fragment. This may have been a tomb. I cannot say for certain.

The cromlech placed at the western extremity of the alignments are part and parcel of the same, and do not form a separate monument ; they yielded

nothing to the excavators, nor did other isolated cromlechs except that of Er-Lannic, where fragments of pottery, and of flint, were found and fragments of broken axes.

Undoubtedly these stone implements played a great *role* in the lives of these primitive people. There is therefore nothing surprising in the fact that they transformed them into symbolic and religious emblems, probably of a phallic kind. The cross, the symbol adopted by the Christians, is found on their tombs, some of which were placed on the road-sides and especially at cross roads, and everywhere the cross symbolises the Son of God. Likewise the menhir was placed on tombs, on roadsides, at the boundaries of territories, and everywhere the menhir was symbolic of an immortal God.

The lech, which is only a dressed menhir destined to support a cross, shows sufficiently the transition stage between the menhir and the cross, exactly as the Roman milestone is the transition between the menhir sign-post and our kilometric stone. My idea is therefore that isolated menhirs served in some cases as tombstones, in others as commemorative stones, sign-posts and landmarks, and that some indicated territorial limits.

Whilst I grant that the alignments have a funeral character, they cannot in my opinion represent actual tombs. For how on that hypothesis can we explain why certain of the burial places, namely, the dolmens, are completely covered in, while others are open to the sky ? Or why the cromlechs are always at the western extremity of the alignments ? It is equally difficult to understand why the large menhirs are always placed near a cromlech and why the menhirs themselves take an easterly direction and gradually diminish in size.

Indeed it is sufficiently evident that the alignments have not been built up gradually, but that they have been made at one and the same time. We must

Dolmen de Mané-Kerioned à Carnac.

therefore grant that they are commemorative funeral monuments and not actual tombs.

I think that they are the remains of religious monuments, which were the meeting places for fêtes and for the celebration of religious ceremonies. The aisles, or passages, were the sacred pathways for the worshippers, and the cromlechs the sanctuary for the officiating priests. If the orientations pointed out by MM. Henri du Cleuziou and F. Gaillard are correct, *i.e.*, if by placing oneself at a given point of a cromlech one can see the sun rise above the menhirs placed across the alleys between the alignments, we know of a certainty that these fields of alignments were placed for a definite purpose.

At Ménec and St. Pierre Quiberon the feasts of the Summer solstice were celebrated ; at Kermario the feasts of the Summer solstice and the Spring and Autumn equinoxes were held, exactly as the Christian Church celebrates the feasts of the four seasons, of which Christmas is the most characteristic.

There are a few lines of menhirs ending in tumuli, such as those of Mané-er-Hroeck. Locmariaquer, Clud-er-Yer, Kergo and Carnac these were certainly funeral in character.

This district was doubtless the centre of a country eminently religious and from a distance pilgrims came to worship and bring the remains of rich and powerful chiefs, whether military or religious, to place them in a sort of Champs-Elysées.

It is for this reason that we find such a large number of monuments comprising many different kinds and such richness and variety in the things found in the tombs. Hence the name Carnac, Carnacium, charnier, ossuaire, ossarium, coemoctérium, the cemetery of bones. It is from a religious idea that we get the following naïve and pretty legend of St. Cornély :—

> « St. Cornély was Pope at Rome, from whence he was hunted by Pagan soldiers who pursued him. He fled before them, accompanied by a

Dolmen des Marchands à Locmariaquer.

yoke of oxen, which bore his baggage and on which he mounted when weary. One evening he arrived on the outskirts of a village called Le Moustoir where he wished to stop ; having, however, heard a young girl insulting her mother he continued his way and arrived shortly at the foot of a mountain where there was another small village. He then saw the sea in front of him and immediately behind him soldiers in battle array He stopped and transformed the whole army into stones. As a souvenir of this great miracle the inhabitants of the surrounding country erected on the spot where he stopped a church dedicated to St. Cornély. That is the reason why these long lines of stones standing to the north of the village of Carnac are seen, and why so often at night ghosts are observed walking in the alleys called « Soudardet sans Cornély », or « Soldats de St. Cornély ». Pilgrims from all countries flocked to the place to implore St. Cornély to cure their diseaded cattle. He cured them all in remembrance of the great services rendered to him by his yoke of oxen during his flight.

« The pilgrims, coming to the « Pardon of St. Cornély », passed among the stone soldiers. The men were supposed to bring stones, the women earth, and to drop them on an elevation near to Carnac, where in time they formed the mount of St. Michel. »

It is evidently this legend told by the first Irish monks who came to preach the Gospel in this part of Armorica which replaced the true traditions of these alignments, exactly in the same way that the worship of St. Cornély himself replaced the worship of the ox, of which M. Milne and I found a statue in the ruins of the Gallo-Roman villa of Bosséno.

The traditions about the dolmens tell us that those piles of stones were the dwellings of the Kerions, a

dwarf people who formerly inhabited the country. The Kerions were small but very strong, and a colloquial idiom is still often used, « Strong as a Kerion ».

THEIR AGE.

All these monuments are not of the same age ; some are extremely ancient but I am sure that many of them are of a later date than is generally supposed. They are said to date from the Stone Age, a time when metals were not known in these districts. The date of origin of the menhirs and dolmens is undoubtedly to be found in the Neolithic or New Stone Age, but the religious use of these stone monuments was continued long after that period, and many of them date from a time when metals were well known. To begin with, gold is found in connection with them; other objects, such as weapons and ornaments of bronze, have also been found, and we have seen that the greater part of the objects found in the tombs were ritual and votive and were made especially to be placed there for use in the next world. Doubtless the use of metal was excluded by the religious caste which made and sold such articles. Not being able or willing to work the metals the priests of that time in this district, the centre of their religion, resisted the use of metal much longer than was the case elsewhere.

In the monuments everything--construction, orientation, contents--indicates a very advanced civilisation. We have seen that in several tumuli bones of horses and oxen have been discovered, and not far from a dolmen tombs containing what are doubtless the ashes and bones of slaves and servants have been found. It was customary for these primitive people to kill the animals, and probably the servants, of the dead so that they could be found again in another world. This shows us that they believed in a world to come. Everything tends to prove that the worship of the

dead formed a great part of their religion, and that certain ceremonies and their bargains always took place beside the tombs. It is very curious to see even nowadays that almost all our old churches and crosses are placed near dolmens and menhirs, and that our largest fairs are usually held somewhat in the same position.

Is this a coincidence? I think not. It is certain that the New Religion took possession of many legends and monuments belonging to the Old and turned them to its own uses. This usurpation could not have taken place before the 4th, 5th and 6th centuries of our era, and may have been even later. I am certain that at this time a religion which admitted of menhirs and dolmens had not entirely disappeared from America notwithstanding the conquest by the Romans, and further these sites have retained their sacred character and fairs have continued even to the present time.

I am more and more convinced that in studying the contents of various sepulchres in different regions we are forcibly driven to place our Morbihannais dolmens, not in the classification of M. G. de Mortillet in the Robenhausien, but (as I have contended for ten years) in the later Bronze Age, or perhaps even in the Gallic Age named Marnienne. There is no great difference between the large chariot sepulchres discovered in Champagne, and so carefully investigated by M. Fondrignier, which contain with the skeleton of a warrior his clothes, weapons, amulets, tools, utensils, eatables, his horse's harness, servants or slaves, and our large tumuli, which contain in the dolmen human bones (doubtless of chiefs), their weapons, attire, amulets, tools, utensils, eatables, horses and some less important and closed sepulchres called coffins or cistvens, which could only be the tombs of slaves or servants.

The contents of the Gallic tombs are slightly different, it is true, from those of our dolmens; nevertheless one urn is decorated in high relief with

Tumulus de Saint-Michel à Carnac.

drawings similar to those found on several of the supports of Gavrinis. The contents of the burial places, and even for that matter of dolmens, vary according to the district. The objects discovered in dolmens in other parts of France are not identical with those found in Morbihan, which are by far the richest and most elegant. The finest objects that I have seen which have been found in dolmens are exhibited at the Museum of St. Germain-en-Laye and are the articles, or casts of them, discovered in our own district.

I am the more convinced that the builders of our great megaliths knew of the existence of metal because the greater part of the engravings which one finds on them denote its employment. The demonstration to prove the contrary which was made at the Musée de Saint Germain seems to me to have entirely failed. Monseigneur l'Abbé Maitre engraved a fragment of granite with axes of flint, a thing he could not do with a fine bronze axe, which had lain some 2,000 years in the soil. It seems to me, however, that before beginning his experiment he should have given this bronze axe the temper which the metallurgists of the epoch had previously given it and which it had ceased to possess for a long period. This is what is called a conclusive experiment. It is no more conclusive than the reproduction of the people living in the dolmens as shown in the Ethnographical Museum of the Trocadéro. I had the sculptures on the greater number of our dolmens examined by our stonecutters ; all affirm that the sculpture was done with metal instruments and I am of their opinion.

As far as I am concerned, therefore, I do not consider there is any proof that the last builders of dolmens, covered ways, cromlechs, aligniments and menhirs of this district were not Gallic, and did not use metals, even iron. The tombs of the Vénêti of Armorica are not yet discovered ; where are they ? Are they not perhaps those little galleries which are found on certain small heights surrounded by embankments, and the circular sepulchres which seem

to be of a later date ? In any case the pottery and certain contents of these last mentioned sepulchres closely resemble those of certain dolmens and above all of the covered ways. Further, their walls are identical with the walls between the supports of these covered ways, notably those of Luffang, Mané-er-Loh and Rocher. This last is placed in the centre of a line of circular sepulchres with which it is certainly connected. These monuments then would mark the last phase of the megalithic monuments during the Gallic, Armorican or Venetian epochs.

EXCURSIONS.

At Carnac, the centre of the megalithic monuments and an important watering-place, two comfortable hotels await tourists who having visited the church, the fountain, and especially the Musée J. Milne, may vary their excursions *ad infinitum* according to the time at their disposal.

Every excursion should be begun with the Tumulus of St. Michel, where one should visit the very curious dolmen discovered in 1900, from the summit of which one commands a view of the surrounding monuments of the country ; notably, the Alignments of Carnac.

The most important excursions are :—

1. For pedestrians having not more than two hours at their disposal :—The Tumulus of St. Michel ; the Alignments and Dolmen of Kermario ; the Alignments and Cromlech of Ménec, and the Dolmen of Cruz-Moquen. Distance three and a half kilometres.
2. For pedestrians having three hours to spare :— The Tumulus of St. Michel ; the Roman ruins of Bossenno ; the Tumulus of Kercado ; the Cromlech, the Alignments and the Tumulus of Kerlescan ; the Géant and wall of Manio ; the Alignments and Dolmen of Kermario ; Alignments and Cromlech of Ménec and the

Dolmen of Cruz-Moquen. Distance 6 kilometres.

3. Another excursion for pedestrians with three hours to spare :—The Dolmen of Cruz-Moquen ; the Alignments and Cromlech of Ménec ; the Géant of Kerderf ; the Dolmens of Mané-Kerioned, of which one is embellished with mystic signs ; Clud-er-Yer ; Kériaval and Notério. Distance five kilometres.

4. For pedestrians having at least five hours to spare :—The Tumulus of St. Michel ; the Roman Ruins of Bossenno ; the Tumulus of Kercado ; Cromlech, Alignments & Tumulus of Kerlescan ; Cromlech, Alignments and Tumulus of Kerlescan ; the Géant and wall of Manio ; the Alignments and Dolmen of Kermario ; the Alignments and Cromlech of Ménec ; the Géant of Kerderf ; the Dolmens of Mané-Kerioned, Clud-er-Yer, Kériaval, Notéris and Cruz-Moquen. Distance ten kilometres.

5. For tourists cycling or driving from Carnac and having not more than two hours' leisure :—The Tumulus of St. Michel ; the Dolmen and Alignments of Kermario ; the Alignments and Cromlech of Ménec and the Dolmen of Cruz-Moquen. Distance five kilometres.

6. For tourists driving or cycling from Carnac and having at least four hours to spare :—The Tumulus of St. Michel ; the Tumulus of Kercado ; the Cromlech and Alignments of Kerlescan ; the Géant and Quadrilateral of Manio ; the Alignments and Dolmen of Kermario ; the Alignments and Dolmen of Ménec ; the Dolmens of Mané-Kerioned, Kériéval and Cruz-Moquen. Distance twelve kilometres.

7. For tourists driving or cycling from Auray :—The Dolmens of Kériaval, Mané-Kerioned ; the Alignments and Cromlech of Ménec ; the Dolmen of Cruz-Moquen ; the Church, Fountain,

Museum and Village of Carnac ; the Tumulus of St. Michel ; the Dolmen and Alignments of Kermario ; the Tumulus of Moustoir ; the Dolmen of Roch-Feutet. Distance there and back twenty-seven kilometres. This excursion can be commenced at the Dolmen of Roch-Feutet and the Tumulus of Moustoir.

8. For tourists driving or cycling in the direction of Locmariaquer. Distance from Carnac twelve kilometres :—After crossing the ferry one can visit on the surrounding heights the Dolmen of Mané-Han, Kermané ; Menhir of Men-Mélen ; the Dolmens of Kerhan, Keroch ; see more particularly the Dolmens of Kerveresse with its stone-caps ; Mané-Lud ; the Table des Marchands and sculptures thereof; the great broken Menhir; the Dolmen of the Ruthual ; the covered way of Pierre-Plates ; the Tumulus of Mané-Hroeck, and the Tumulus of Gavrinis in the island of that name.

9. Tourists driving or cycling in the direction of Erdeven. Distance nine kilometres :—The Dolmens of Kergavat, Rondossec ; the Menhirs of Vieux-Moulin ; the Quadrilateral of Cruenno ; the Dolmens of Mané-Groch, Mané-Bras, and the Alignments of Kerzehro.

The tramway from Etel to La Trinité, *via* the station of Plouharnel Carnac and Carnac Plage, is of great use for excursions to the monuments of the Communes of Plouharnel, Erdeven and Belz.

With the accompanying map tourists can modify their excursions to their liking. I have only given them a general idea of the main objects of interest. I am generally to be found at the Musée J. Milne and I am always ready to furnish such information as tourists may need.

Zacharie Le Rouzic.

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